

REMARKS

Upon approval of the undersigned's request for entry of the present amendment, claims 1–18, and 23–35 will be pending. Previous to this amendment, claims 1–24 were pending, with claims 1–18, and 23–24 examined. Claims 13–16 were objected to, and the remaining examined claims 1–12, 17–18, and 23–24 were substantively rejected variously under 35 USC Section 102 in light of a number of cited references. Additionally, various informalities have been addressed and corrected, and new claims added.

Previously pending claims 1–12, 17, 18, 23, and 24 had been substantively rejected under 35 USC Section 102, however it is respectfully asserted that those rejections are now moot in light of the present amendments. The new claims are respectfully asserted to include limitations distinguishing themselves from the cited references. Principally, the claims as now pending emphasize features of the invention including a shaft having a shaping system disposed at one end, that shaping system including cooperating forming elements. The cited references do not include these features – predominately the references show at least a pair of “scissoring” shafts joined at a midpoint with a forming element at the end of each shaft. Other cited references include longitudinally operating shafts within a housing that may cooperatively produce an object. These references do not teach or suggest, individually or in combination, the structure recited in the currently pending claims.

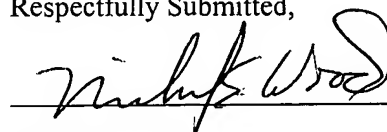
Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Michael E. Woods, Applicants' Attorney at (415) 388-0830 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

11 December 2004

Date

Respectfully Submitted,



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